

Remarks

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated August 26, 2004. Claims 7-17 are cancelled without prejudice; claims 1-6 and 18-22 are pending. In light of the following remarks, the applicant requests advancement of this application to allowance.

Statutory Double Patent Rejection

Claims 1-17 stand rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and the applicant respectfully traverse. The applicant notes that claims 1-6 are not identical in scope with any claims in U.S. Patent 6,621,900. The applicant has cancelled claims 7-17. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1-6.

Non-Statutory Double Patent Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 18-22 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite advancement of this application toward allowance, the applicant has attached an executed terminal disclaimer with respect to United States Patent 6,621,900. A check for \$55.00 is enclosed to cover the required fees under 37 CFR § 1.20(d). In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejection and advancement of this application to allowance. Please call the undersigned attorney if there are any questions.

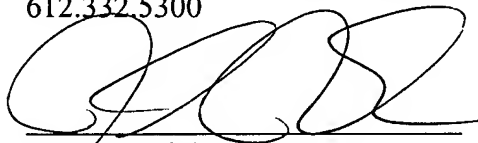
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The applicant notes that there may be reasons other than those raised in this paper that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. The applicants reserve the right to raise any such reason or argument in the future.

Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300



John C. Reich
Reg. No. 37,703
JCR:nma

Date: November 23, 2004

